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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

DOAN, PHUOC HUU

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2687

DATE MAILED: 07/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/935,082

Applicant(s)

INDIRABHAI, JYOTHIS

Examiner

PHUOC H. DOAN

Art Unit

2687

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 December 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Arguments*

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-30 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-30 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Muller (US Pub No: 2002/0031196) in view of Crosbie (US Pub No: 2002/0114303)**.

**As to claim 1**, Muller et al discloses a method for distributing timing information amongst a plurality of master devices, the method comprising: distributing a global clock (Fig. 2, the common time reference 20) to a first master device (Fig. 1, item 2) from the plurality of master devices wherein said first master device operates according to a local clock that is independent of said global clock (column 2, paragraphs [0030], and paragraph [0038]); determining an offset between said global clock and said local clock (column 4, paragraphs [0049-0051]); However, Muller does not specifically disclose a method for distributing timing information amongst a plurality of master devices; and distributing said offset to at least one master device other than said first master device.

Crosbie specifically discloses a method for distributing timing information amongst a plurality of master devices (Fig. 6, col. 7, par. [0072], and col. 8,

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par. [0084]); and distributing said offset to at least one master device "col. 7, par. [0067-0074]" other than said first master device (col. 8, par. [0076-0079]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a plurality of master devices as taught by Crosbie to the system of Muller in order to transfer to another device without being required to resynchronize adjust the slave devices.

**As to claim 2**, Muller further discloses that wherein said global clock comprises a local clock of one of the plurality of master devices (Fig. 1, paragraph [0047]).

**As to claim 3**, the combination of Muller and Crosbie further disclose that wherein said offset is distributed over a communication pathway linking said first one of said master devices to said at least one of said master devices (col. 4, par. [0040], and col. 5, par. [0049] of Crosbie).

**As to claim 4**, the combination of Muller and Crosbie further disclose that wherein said communication pathway comprises a wired communication pathway (col. 4, par. [0040] of Crosbie).

**As to claim 5**, the claim is rejected for the same reason as set forth in claim 3.

**As to claim 6**, Muller et al further discloses that wherein said distributing said offset comprises storing said offset in a memory accessible to said plurality of master devices (column 4, paragraph [0051]).

**As to claim 7**, Muller et al further discloses that wherein said distributing said offset comprises providing said offset upon receiving a request from one of said plurality of master devices (column 4, paragraph [0053]).

**As to claim 8**, Muller et al further discloses that wherein each of said plurality of master devices stores said offset (column 4, paragraph [0049]).

**As to claim 9**, Muller et al further discloses that wherein said master device comprises a Bluetooth.TM. device configured to act as a master (column 1, paragraph [0018], and column 3, paragraph [0040]).

**As to claim 10**, the claim is rejected for the same reason as set forth in claim 1.

**As to claim 11**, Muller et al further discloses that wherein each of said master devices includes a local oscillator and wherein said global clock comprises a clock signal generated by the local oscillator associated with one of the plurality of master devices (column 4, paragraph [0050]).

**As to claim 12**, the combination of Muller and Crosbie further disclose that wherein said offset is stored in a central location and provided to at least one of said master devices (col. 8, par. [0076-0079] of Crosbie).

**As to claim 13**, the combination of Muller and Crosbie further disclose that wherein said offset is stored locally at said second master device (col. 8, par. [0076-0084] of Crosbie).

**As to claim 14**, the claim is interpreted and rejected for the same reason as set forth in claim 9.

**As to claim 15**, Muller et al discloses a system comprising: a communication pathway (Fig. 1, item 8, column 2, paragraph 0029); a global clock (the common time reference 20), coupled to said communication pathway (column 2, paragraphs [0031-0034]); and a plurality of master devices (Fig. 1, item 2) coupled to said communication

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pathway (column 2, paragraph [0033]), wherein each of said master devices includes: a local clock generator that generates a local clock (column 4, paragraph [0050]), and means for determining an offset between said global clock and said local clock (column 4, paragraph [0050]), wherein said offset is distributed to at least one of said master devices (column 4, paragraphs [0051-0056]). However, Muller does not specifically disclose a communication pathway; a global clock, coupled to said communication pathway; and a plurality of master devices coupled to said communication pathway.

Crosbie discloses a communication pathway (col. 4, par. [0040], and col. 5, par. [0049]; a global clock (Fig. 6, item 38-1, col. 7, par. [0067-0068]), coupled to said communication pathway (col. 4, par. [0040], and col. 5, par. [0049]); and a plurality of master devices coupled to said communication pathway (col. 7, par. [0071-0075]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a plurality of master devices coupled to said communication pathway as taught by Crosbie to the system of Muller in order to transfer to another device without being required to resynchronize adjust the slave devices.

**As to claim 16**, the claim is interpreted and rejected for the same reason as set forth in claim 4.

**As to claim 17**, the claim is interpreted and rejected for the same reason as set forth in claim 5.

**As to claim 18**, Muller et al further discloses that wherein said global clock comprises one of said local clocks (column 4, paragraph [0050]).

**As to claim 19**, Muller et al further discloses that comprising a memory coupled to said communication pathway, wherein said offsets are stored in said memory (column 4, paragraph [0049]).

**As to claim 20**, Muller et al further discloses that wherein said offset is distributed upon request by one of said master devices (column 4, paragraph [0051], and column 5, paragraph [0066]).

**As to claim 21**, Muller et al further discloses that wherein each of said master devices further includes a local memory for storing offsets associated with at least one of said master devices (column 4, paragraph [0049]).

**As to claim 22**, the claim is interpreted and rejected for the same reason as set forth in claim 9.

**As to claim 23**, the claim is interpreted and rejected for the same reason as set forth in claim 15.

**As to claim 24**, the claim is interpreted and rejected for the same reason as set forth in claim 4.

**As to claim 25**, the claim is interpreted and rejected for the same reason as set forth in claim 5.

**As to claim 26**, the claim is interpreted and rejected for the same reason as set forth in claim 19.

**As to claim 27**, the claim is interpreted and rejected for the same reason as set forth in claim 19.

**As to claim 28**, the claim is interpreted and rejected for the same reason as set forth in claim 20.

**As to claim 29**, the claim is interpreted and rejected for the same reason as set forth in claim 21.

**As to claim 30**, the claim is interpreted and rejected for the same reason as set forth in claim 9.

### ***Conclusion***

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Haartsen (**US Pub No: 2002/0075940**) discloses "Networking in uncoordinated frequency hopping piconets".

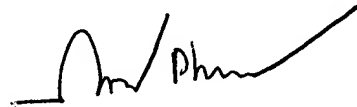
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PHUOC H. DOAN whose telephone number is 571-272-7920. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 AM - 6:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, LESTER G. KINCAID can be reached on 571-272-7922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.



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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Phuoc Doan  
07/21/05

  
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**LESTER G. KINCAID**  
**SUPERVISORY PRIMARY EXAMINER**